

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 CCO-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

AID-20 RSR-01 /128 W

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O R 101045 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9933

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 6053

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

AE. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT - APRIL 10, 1973

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
THE EMBASSY AS OF 2000 APRIL 10.

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SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

PART I: ICCS: ALL ICCS HELICOPTER FLIGHTS SUSPENDED.

PART II: TPJMC: TONG LE CHAN AGAIN RAISED, UNRESOLVED.

PART III: CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: 10,424 CHARGED

PART IV: MR 1: ICCS TEAM LEAVES FOR GIO LINH; HOI CHANH REPORTS
NEW ATTACKS ON SA HUYNH PLANNED FOR MAY.

PART V: MR 2: DELAYED; WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

PART VI: MR 3: TONG LE CHAN, PHUOC LONG PRESSURE CONTINUES;
REGION V ICCS CHOPPERS GROUNDED.

PART VII: MR 4: REGION VII ICCS CHOPPERS GROUNDED; HONG NGU
REDEPLOYMENT POSTPONED.

PART I: ICCS

1. ALL ICCS HELICOPTER FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED THROUGHOUT
THE COUNTRY AS THE RESULT OF QUANG TRI AND VI THANH (REGION VII)
HELICOPTER INCIDENTS. ICCS IS REVIEWING SITUATION TO ESTABLISH
WHAT CHANGES IN SOP REQUIRED FOR CHOPPER USE.

2. CANDEL CASUALTY FROM QUANG TRI CHOPPER CRASH APRIL 7 FLOWN
BY US AIRCRAFT TO THAILAND FOR EMBALMING AND ONWARD TRANSPORT TO
TRAVIS LATE APRIL 9. INDODEL CASUALTY DEPARTED FOR JAKARTA NOON
APRIL 10 VIA SPECIAL INDO C-130. TWO HUNGARIAN DEAD ARE BEING
CREMATED IN SAIGON.

3. NEXT ICCS PLENARY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 11. POLITICAL IMPACT
ON ICCS WEEKEND'S TRAGEDY MAY BEGIN TO BECOME EVIDENT AT THAT TIME.

PART II: TPJMC

1. THE DELEGATIONS TO THE TPJMC MET FOR THE FOURTH TIME
APRIL 10. ACCORDING TO GVN PRESS SPOKESMAN HIEN, SEVERAL
SUBJECTS (UNSPECIFIED) WERE RAISED, BUT NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE
WAS ACCOMPLISHED. HIEN CONFIRMED THAT THE GVN AGAIN RAISED
THE TONG LE CHAN ISSUE BUT THAT THE PRG CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR
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A MEETING OF COMMANDERS IN THE FIELD TO RESOLVE IT LOCALLY.
THE RVN CONTINUES ADAMANTLY TO OPPOSE SUCH LOCAL MEETINGS AND
AS HIEN SAID TODAY, HAS MADE A COUNTERPROPOSAL-- THUS FAR
IGNORED BY THE PRG-- THAT TWO FIELD- GRADE OFFICERS FROM EACH
DELEGATION BE SENT TO TONG LE CHAN TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT.
IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON TONG LE CHAN WHICH REFERED IN
PASSING TO THE INABILITY OF THE ICCS TO RESOLVE THAT PROBLEM,
HIEN IN EFFECT SAID: " YOU SAID IT FIRST-- WE DIDN' T", WENT ON
TO REGISTER HIS CONCERN WITH ICCS SHORTCOMINGS TO DATE, AND STATED

AGAIN THAT GVN WOULD TAKE ACTION TO RELIEVE TONG LE CHAN IF NECESSARY.

2. HIEN TODAY ALSO VOLUNTEERED THE OPINION THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF GENERAL TRA, THE PRG DELEGATION TO THE RPJMC (CURRENTLY HEADED BY MG TUAN) DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO RESOLVE MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE.

PART III: CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS (VP) IN APRIL 10 PM EDITION CHARGED THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE COMMITTED 10,424 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS THROUGH 0600 APRIL 10. ENEMY CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 16,452 KIA, 209 CIA. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE 3,755 KIA, 18,074 WIA AND 1,023 MIA. IN ADDITION, 559 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED, 1,628 WOUNDED AND 988 ABDUCTED.

PART IV: MR 1

1. INCIDENTS FELL TO 14 INCLUDING 12 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), ONE GROUND ATTACK AND ONE MISCELLANEOUS, THE GROUND ATTACK AND 11 ABF' S OCCURRED IN THE FIRST DIVISION AO WEST OF HUE. VNAF FLEW 14 TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT SORTIES IN SUPPORT OF A FIRST DIVISION RECON ELEMENT IN CONTACT WITH ENEMY FORCES. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED A TOTAL OF 1,238 ROUNDS; 556 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS 682 SOUTH.

2. THE ICCS REGION I TEAM INVESTIGATING THE HELICOPTER LOST AT LAO BAO HAS DEPARTED FOR GIO LINH, ETA 1130 HOURS 10 APRIL.

3. HEADQUARTERS AND SECOND BATTALION, 51 ST REGIMENT, ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPLOY TO PHU BAI TODAY TO CONSTITUTE A PART OF THE CORPS RESERVE NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS.
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4. ACCORDING TO THE QUANG NGAI PROVINCE CHIEF, A RECENT HOI CHANH IN BINH DINH PROVINCE, SAID THAT THE 2 ND NVA DIVISION HAS MADE PLANS FOR A TWO- PHASED OFFENSIVE IN SOUTHERN MR I AND NORTHERN BINH DINH.
THE OBJECTIVE OF THE FIRST PHASE, IS THE RECAPTURE OF SA HUYNH AND ADJOINING HOAI NHON DISTRICT IN BINH DINH. THE DIVISION PLUS REINFORCEMENTS WILL LAUNCH A MAJOR ATTACK ON SA HUYNH ON APPROXIMATELY MAY 17.

PART V: MR 2

DELAYED; WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

PART VI: MR 3

1. VC/ NVA ACTIVITY WAS LOW LEVEL AND INDICATIVE OF EFFORTS TO KEEP FRIENDLY FORCES ON THE DEFENSIVE. 18 INCIDENTS WERE

REPORTED, CONSISTING OF NINE MINOR GROUND SKIRMISHES. TONG LE CHAN BASE CAMP RECEIVED CONTINUOUS ABF ON APRIL 9, TOTALING OVER 250 ROUNDS OF 120 MM ROCKETS, 61 MM MORTAR AND B-40 GRENADES, WHICH WOUNDED ONE RANGER. THERE WAS NO GROUND ATTACK. IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE PRESSURE ON THE 73 RD ARVN RANGERS IN THE SON HA HAMLET AREA ALONG ROUTE 1 A CONTINUED. AN ABF CONSISTING OF 40 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR WAS FOLLOWED BY A GROUND ATTACK BY AN UNKNOWN SIZE HOSTILE FORCE. THE ATTACK WAS DRIVEN OFF, WITH NO RANGER CASUALTIES REPORTED. TWO LIGHT ABF AND A GROUND PROBE AGAINST TERRITORIAL FORCES 6 KMS. WEST OF XUAN LOC SUGGEST THAT THE VC/ NVA INTEND TO HARASS HIGHWAY 1 AGAIN IN THE VICINITY OF TRANG BOM.

2. MR 3 CG MINH NOW VIEWS THE MILITARY SITUATION IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE AS VERY SERIOUS. AS A RESULT, HE HAS SENT ANOTHER RANGER BATTALION TO PHUOC LONG. THAT GIVES PHUOC LONG FOUR RANGER BATTALIONS, PLUS ITS IDIGENOUS FORCES.

3. LTG MINH IS CURRENTLY DERIDING THE ICCS FOR ITS INABILITY TO INVESTIGATE THE FIGHTING AROUND TONG LE CHAN. HE VIEWS THE SITUATION AS A CRUCIAL TEST OF ICCS EFFECTIVENESS, AND AS A PRECEDENT FOR THE FUTURE.

4. ALL ICCS REGION V HELICOPTERS HAVE BEEN GROUNDED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD DUE TO THE RECENT DOWNING IN REGIONS I AND VII.
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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 SSO-00 CCO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

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AS A RESULT, THE AN LOC SUB- REGIONAL TEAM' S TRIP TO PHUOC LONG PROVINCE SCHEDULED FOR TODAY HAS BEEN CANCELLED, TO THE DISMAY OF THE GVN, WHICH BADLY WANTS THE ICCS TO VISIT PHUOC LONG BEFORE HEAVY FIGHTING BREAKS OUT. ACCORDING TO CANADIANS ON THE REGIONAL TEAM, INVESTIGATIONS WILL CONTINUE IN REGION V WHEREVER IT IS POSSIBLE TO DRIVE.

5. THE NATIONAL POLICE IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE HAVE RECEIVED
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AN ORDER THAT THEREARE TO BE NO MORE DEMONSTRATIONS AT ICCS LOCATIONS. THE TECHNIQUE WILL BE TO DEMONSTRATE ELSEWHERE, AND SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO DELIVER PETITIONS. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT ONLY SANCTIONED DEMONSTRATIONS ARE TO BE PERMITTED, REGARDLESS OF PURPOSE.

PART VII: MR 4

1. SEVENTY- THREE VC INITIATED INCIDENTS OCCURRED APRIL 9. CHUONG THIEN AND DINH TUONG WERE THE SCENES OF MOST ACTIVITY. NVA ACTIVITY IN THE HONG NGU/ TAN CHAU AREA CONSISTED MOSTLY OF ATTACKS BY FIRE AND WAS LESS SEVERE THAN LAST WEEK. TAN CHAU RECEIVED 82 MM MORTAR FIRE. THE NVA/ VCT SHELLED SEVERAL

OUTPOSTS NEAR HONG NGU.

2. ICCS INDODEL AND CANDEL HAVE DEFERRED THEIR RETURN TO HONG NGU PENDING ORDERS FROM THE SENIOR CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN GENERALS WHO HAVE RESERVED TO THEMSELVES FINAL APPROVAL ON DEPLOYMENT.

3. MR 4 COMMANDER, MGEN NGH1, HAS OFFERED THE REGION VII ICCS THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW THREE CAPTURED NVA PRISONERS. THE INTERVIEW IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 10. ALL FOUR DELEGATIONS WILL INTERVIEW THE ALLEGED NVA SOLDIERS.

4. ICCS REGION VII HELICOPTERS ARE PRESENTLY GROUNDED ON ORDERS FROM SAIGON. REGION VII ICCS BELIEVES THAT THEY WILL BE BACK IN THE AIR WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

5. BA XUYEN GVN AND VC INITIATED ACTIVITY CONTINUES AT PRE-CEASEFIRE LEVELS. SECTOR FORCES ARE OPERATING IN AREAS OF THE PROVINCE WHERE THE VC HAVE A SEMI- PERMANENT PRESENCE. WITH THE CREATION OF THE NEW SPECIAL TACTICAL AREA ALONG THE CONTESTED EASTERN BA XUYEN- BAC LIEU BORDER GVN FORCES CAN BE EXPECTED TO ACCELERATE THE " SEEK AND DESTROY" POLICE TOWARDS VC MINI- BASE AREAS ADOPTED SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER THE CEASEFIRE. VC ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY ATTACKS BY FIRE ON OUTPOSTS, BOOBY TRAP INCIDENTS, AND OCCASIONAL AMBUSHES OF GVN TERRITORIAL FORCES IN OR NEAR VC AREAS OF INFLUENCE.

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JEC PARIS

VIENTIANE
WARSAW
DANANG
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BIEN HOA
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